(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that several National programmes are implemented for providing food to the families of below poverty line in rural and urban areas; and

(c) if so, the details of these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government implements several schemes/programmes for making subsidized food grains available to indentified poor families/individuals. Their details are as follows:

1. **Targeted Public Distribution System**:

   Government is allocating food grains at subsidized rates for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL), and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration card holder families under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Under this, food grains are allocated to the States/UTs @ 35 Kg per BPL/AAY family per month. Depending upon availability of food grains in the Central pool, they are also allocated for APL category of ration card holders. Presently, allocations of food grains under this category range from 10 to 35 Kg per family per month. During 2009-10, total 190.2 lakh tons of foodgrains have been allocated to States/UTs under APL category.

2. Under Annapurna scheme implemented by Ministry of Rural Development through State/UT Governments, indigent senior citizens of 65 years of age or above who are not getting old age pension, are provided 10 Kg of food grains per person per month free of cost. 94,970 tons of food grains have been allocated to States/UTs under the scheme during 2009-10.

3. Under the Emergency Feeding Programme (EFP) implemented by Department of Food & Public Distribution through the State Government of Orissa in eight KBK Districts of the State, food grains (rice) at BPL rates are allocated to the State Government for approximately 2 lakh beneficiaries in these districts. 18,000 tons of rice have been allocated under this scheme during 2009-10.

4. To provide safeguard against starvation during natural calamity and lean season, under the Village Grain Bank Scheme implemented by the Department of Food & Public Distribution through the State Governments, food grains are allocated free of cost by Government to States. So far 18,506 Village Grain Banks have been sanctioned in 20 States.

5. The Government also makes allocation of food grains to States/UTs through the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development under Midday Meal scheme for providing food to school children studying in primary and upper primary levels. 27.73 lakh tons of food grains have been allocated under the scheme during 2009-10.